DONALD G. SMITH was born in Rochester, Indiana, in 1906. He attended Western Reserve University, John Huntington Polytechnic Institute, and Beaux Art Institute of Design. In 1938, he opened a private practice in Miami Beach, where he designed the Royal Palm Hotel, the Lynmar Hotel, and the Metropole Hotel in South Beach. He and Irvin Korach later formed a firm in Florida that grew to become Smith, Korach, Hayet, Haynie Partnership (SKHHP). After World War II, the firm specialized in hospital architecture.

He executed contracts for various government agencies and private firms and wrote numerous articles for publication in various journals. He was a speaker on specifications for hospital planning or construction at conventions and seminars. In addition to his work on hotels, he designed two hotels, and many residences and apartment houses in South Beach, Florida.

Activities included the American Institute of Architects (and the Florida Society), the American Hospital Association, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and chair of the CSI-AIA Liaison Committee. He had junior and senior registration with the National Council of Architectural Boards, and active registration in Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Smith passed away 13 October 1967.